

Introduction to Comprehensive Planning

Crafting a civic vision for
Berkeley County and preparing
a path to it...

To Be Discussed This Evening...

- What is comprehensive planning?
- Why is comprehensive planning important?
- Who is doing this planning?
 - ◆ Roles
- How does the planning process shape up?
 - ◆ Timeline



Comprehensive Planning for Berkeley County

- Who's here and why?
 - ★ Berkeley County has enlisted the services of the BCDCOG to help prepare its 2008-09 Comprehensive Plan.
 - ◆ County Planning Commission is assigned this role by State Code.
 - ◆ Team leader: Alec Brebner, AICP

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

- Civic vision for your community.
- Long-range policy document to bring that vision into reality.
- A democratic process steered by the County Planning Commission!



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A “*Civic*... Vision?”

- Civic vision reflects values and aspirations of your community.
- A civic vision for big, diverse Berkeley County could be varied, multi-faceted, and complex.



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Civic Vision: Rural Community Case Study



- Inventory of existing conditions – *take stock of what you have.*

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Civic Vision: Setting a Foundation & Goals



- What has value (intrinsic or economic)?

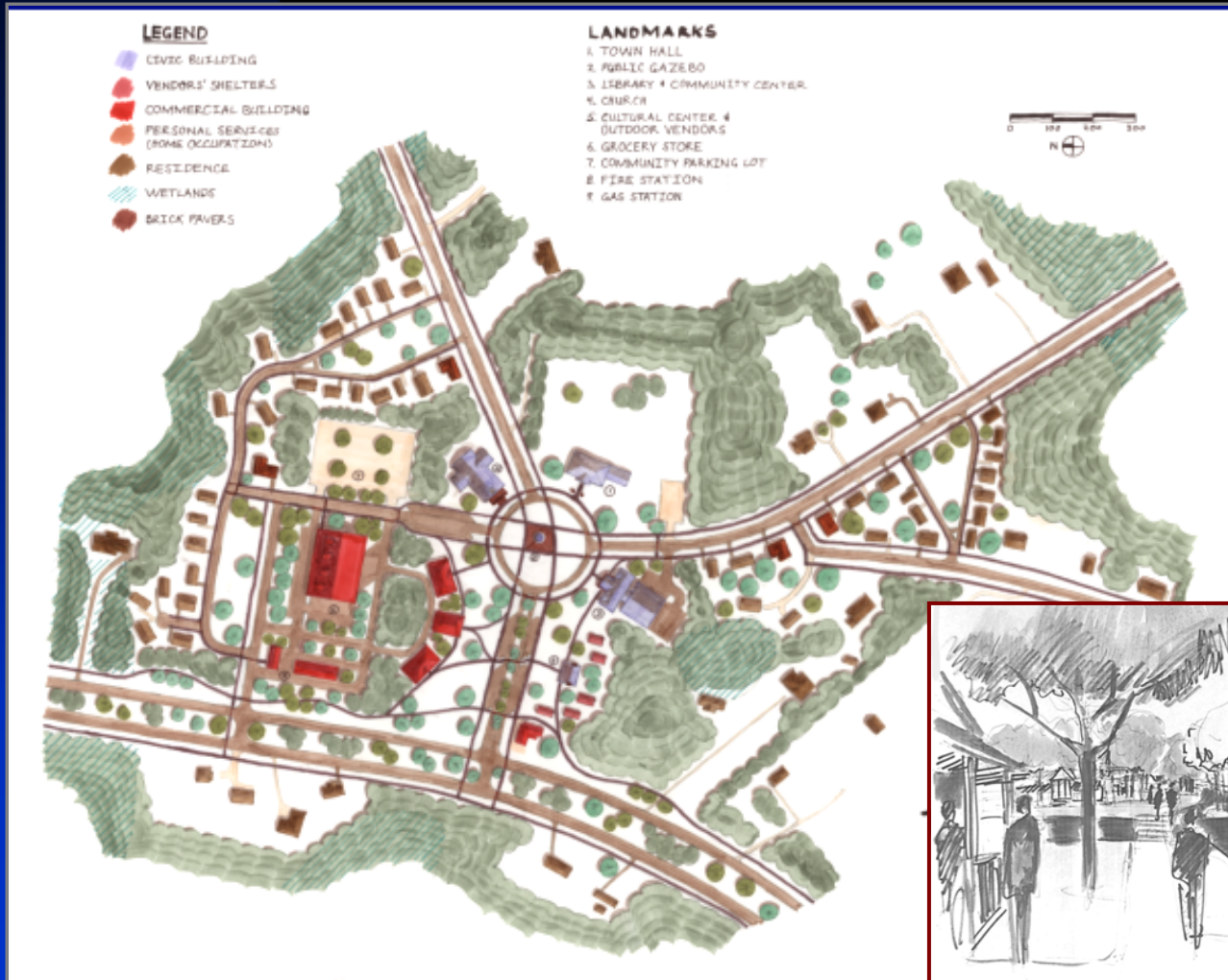
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Civic Vision: Goal Setting & Planning



- What's the civic vision?
- What are the community's aspirations?





Civic Vision: Planning & Implementation

- How do we make it happen?



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Civic Vision: Planning & Implementation

- How do we make it happen?



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The “Comprehensive” Part...

- There are 9 elements to consider in *comprehensive* planning:



- Two of them are jobs and housing.

The “Comprehensive” Part...

- Also, transportation and community facilities.



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The “Comprehensive” Part...

- Cultural and natural resources.



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The “Comprehensive” Part...

- Don't forget about population – i.e., PEOPLE!



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The “Comprehensive” Part...

- Land use: “What gets built where?”



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The “Comprehensive” Part...

■ Investment Priorities

- ◆ Allocate limited resources.
- ◆ Coordinate investment in public infrastructure with other providers,
 - ★ Including other local governments.
 - ★ Especially coordinate roads, water & sewer, and schools.
- ◆ *Then* coordinate land use (private investment) with public investment.



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Why Is Comprehensive Planning Important?

- Are the plans listed here important?
 - ◆ Business plan
 - ◆ Financial and retirement plans
 - ◆ Military planning
 - ◆ Event planning



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Why Is This Important?

- Have you built your own home?
 - ◆ You likely started with a mental image of how it might look.
 - ★ Then you met with an architect to guide you through the process.
 - ★ You decided what aspects of a new home were most valuable to you based on your budget.



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Why Is This Important? (cont'd)

- Have you built your own home?
 - ◆ You and your architect assembled a team of engineers & contractors to bring your vision to reality.
 - ★ Engineers worked with design plans to ensure a sound structure and functional utilities.
 - ★ Contractors implemented design plans to bring your vision to reality.



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Roles in the Process

- Steering the process:
 - ◆ Berkeley County Planning Commission
- Facilitating the process:
 - ◆ BCDCOG professional planners
 - ◆ Berkeley County planning staff
- Informing the process:
 - ◆ Berkeley County citizens
 - ★ Don't forget about the PEOPLE!



Comprehensive Plan Theme:

- Planning the Future While Preserving the Past

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Guiding Principles (1st draft)

- Protect and promote distinctive, diverse communities (esp. housing).
- Manage infrastructure systems effectively and expand efficiently.



Guiding Principles (1st draft, cont'd)

- Respect and enhance historical and natural resources...
 - ◆ And improve public access to them.
- Make recreational – both active and passive – opportunities available county-wide.

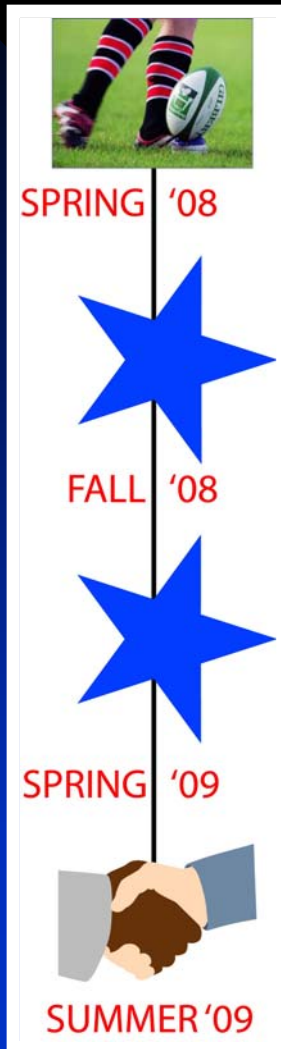


Guiding Principles (1st draft, cont'd)

- Clear, fair plan
 - ◆ Implemented through simplified codes with predictable, streamlined process and costs.



Planning Process Timeline



- Public Kick-off Meeting
 - ◆ May 27, 2008
- Public Visioning Workshops
 - ◆ September – October 2008
- Public Critique Workshops
 - ◆ March – April 2009
- Public Review Meeting
 - ◆ Summer 2009

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To keep up with the Plan

- Monitor local newspapers.
- Visit the Plan's home page on the Internet:
 - ◆ www.co.berkeley.sc.us/comprehensiveplan/
- Sign up to receive e-mail or postal mail updates.

Contacts

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Questions?

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